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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF BANGLADESH

IPF:(1992-96) $163 172 000

(BGD/91/022) - Reform of Higher Secondary Education

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	15 July 1992
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$2 651 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$2 651 000

Project background

Given the limited resources that Bangladesh can devote to Higher Secondary Education, which forms a crucial link in the provision of needed technical and professional expertise to spearhead further development, it is imperative for Bangladesh to improve the efficiency and relevance of the higher secondary education subsector to meet the socio-economic requirements of the nation. The higher secondary curriculum, crowded with academic subjects is only relevant to the minority of pupils who successfully complete higher secondary level and proceed to higher education.

In the light of growing social demand for secondary education and needs for middle management and technical personnel, there is an urgent need for the reform of the higher secondary subsector, in order to prepare the large majority of students who do not go into higher education to enter the job market through development of functional skills, render the curriculum more rigorous and relevant to the needs of society and away from the present emphasis on memorization of an irrelevant body of knowledge, improve the quality of teaching, and enhance the capacity of the DSHE for academic supervision and management. To this end the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

The above-mentioned project forms an integral part of the Government's General Education Project (GEP), financed by an AsDB loan of $55.7 million, and as such is reflected in UNDP's programme framework for the education sector.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) establish clear objectives for higher secondary education with emphasis on practical orientation for application of knowledge gained through academic subjects; (b) revise the HSE curriculum and improve teaching methods to render the teaching more relevant to the target population and establish links with the world of work; and (c) strengthen management and supervisory structures of

[1] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

higher secondary education through, **inter alia**, clarification of the respective roles of DSHE, Directorate of Inspection and Audit (DIA) and Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) and appropriate training of key personnel in these institutions.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a total of 93 work-months of international consultants spread over 14 specializations stretching from curriculum support to management review and support, and 123 work-months of national expertise spread over a similar range of specializations, supplemented by subcontracts for action-oriented research studies, formal in-country training activities in the form of workshops and seminars and other information dissemination activities.

Financial data

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Personnel	2 340 000
Subcontract	160 000
Training	100 000
Miscellaneous	51 000
Total	2 651 000

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